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What happened to sundial that used to adorn D&H offices on N. Main Street?

By S. ROBERT POWELL

Many Carbondale residents speak of the sundial that stood on the north side of Main Street until last Thursday. No one has ever spoken with anyone who knew any of the specifics on the sundial. On that day that stood about where Roe's Service Station is now located... Mrs. Wilce reported, "and there was a

"CARBONDALE, July 30 - sundial made according to granite into which the dial is fastened." No more fitting inscription specifications he drew up himself. At the time he had the old Gravity No. 7 plane. Three solid blocks were obtained. One was presented to Mr. Manville, who lived on North Main Street, another went to George Graner, who was in business with him. The third was given to Mr. Dickson, Clark's Hardware, and the fourth to Mr. D. & H. General Office. The sundial was placed in front of the building like the Ben-Mar, and it remained there until 1882, when it was removed and re-located across from the former D&H offices on North Main Street.

"This information was imparted by Henry Graner, a division mason foreman at the time of its removal.

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Local history

George Tryon was prominent local building contractor after Civil War

In that portion of the Battle of Gettysburg that took place in the Peach Orchard there, he was transferred to the invalid corps, in which he served the remainder of his term. On July 21, 1865 after 36 months of service to the nation and by authority from the War Department, he was discharged, at Chicago, Illinois, as a corporal of Captain I. H. Chapman's in the 59th Company, 2nd Batt., V.R. Corps. From Tryon's discharge papers, which are owned by Robert Price, we learn that at the time of his discharge, Tryon was 18 years old, 5 feet 6 and a quarter inches tall, with dark complexion, dark eyes and black hair. Tryon was mustered into the William H. Davies G.A.R. Post No. 187, Carbondale, on January 10, 1892, by transfer from G.A.R. Post No. 141.

Among the Civil War souvenirs that belonged to Tryon, and which are now owned by Robert Price, are Civil War buttons, several rounds of rifle ammunition (grape shot), a peach pit from the Peach Orchard battlefield, and shell fragments picked up on the battlefield at Gettysburg. Price, in addition, owns an extraordinary photograph of Company G, 141st Pennsylvania Infantry, that was probably taken in the Fredericksburg area during the spring of 1863. Price's grandfather, George Hedding Tryon, appears in the photograph.

Following his discharge from the Union Army, Tryon learned the carpenter's trade and gained a knowledge of the business of contracting and building, which he followed first in Wilkes-Barre, before he established himself in business in Carbondale.

Since the publication of the article "Estabrook family traces roots in Carbondale to Civil War days" (NEWS, June 10, 1983, page 1), however, a large quantity of information has been learned about Tryon, who was the father-in-law of Charles Vivian Estabrook. This information has been learned primarily from Tryon's grandson, Robert F. Price, 169 Lincoln Avenue.

Tryon was the son of the Methodist minister, the Rev. Levi Dennis Tryon (1817-1876) and Priscilla (1820-1892), both well known residents of Honesdale during their life times.

Tryon was born at Auburn, N.Y., on November 26, 1845, and until 1884, resided at various times in Auburn, Bradford County, Honesdale, and other places.

During the years before the Civil War he lived in Honesdale, where, on August 10, 1862, he became a member, with the rank of corporal, of Captain James Mumford's Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Third Corps, Army of the Potomac. At the time of his enlistment, Tryon was a mechanic. He served for three years, his regiment serving valorously. Among the battles in which he fought were Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862); Cedar Creek (October 19, 1863), and Chancellorsville (May 3, 1863). At the battle of Gettysburg, the 141st was decimated, with 27 killed, 103 wounded, and 21 missing during the rebel attack. Nineteen came out of the battle unscathed (3 commanding officers and 16 enlisted men). Tryon was among the wounded on July 2, and was carried off the field of battle by I.M. Lincoln, who installed, at a cost of \$2,000, the four fireproof vaults that extend through both stories of the two-story wing of the present-day City Hall, which opened to the public in 1901 during the busy season, erected, in addition, many family residences in Carbondale and vicinity, including the house now occupied by his youngest daughter, Doris I. (Tryon) Price, at 28 Darte Avenue.

In 1894, he executed Truman L. Lacy's designs for the new interior and the new roof on the old City Hall, the two-story wing of which (the City Hall) joined the two-story wing to the three-story wing and tower of City Hall, ceased work on his contract in the fall of 1893. It was Tryon and his workmen, in addition, who installed, at a cost of \$3,500, the new roof on the old City Hall.

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Tryon recovered from the operation

and continued to work in Carbondale as a contractor and builder for eight years.

On Wednesday, June 15, 1904, at 7:45 a.m., at his residence at 28 Darte Avenue, George Hedding Tryon died. At the time of his death, he was actively engaged in building the R.M. Vannan Block (41 Lincoln Avenue). The following information about Tryon's final days is contained in his obituary that was published in a local paper (probably the Leader): "The deceased had been ailing since Christmas with liver trouble, but his condition had not been considered serious. He had engaged the doctor for the election of R.M. Vannan's new business block on Lincoln Avenue and had worked there until Thursday noon."

"When he went home to dinner he complained and in the afternoon was compelled to take to his bed. From then on he failed rapidly and during the last hours suffered considerably, although at all times displayed patience and fortitude."

Funeral services were conducted at

the Tryon home on Darte Avenue by the

Rev. T.P. Hall, pastor of the Methodist Church. From the house, the funeral cortège proceeded to Maplewood Cemetery, where, at the interment of Tryon's earthly remains, the G.A.R. ritual was read by J.M. Alexander, commander of the William H. Davies Post No. 187.